

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

(a) providing a viscous gelled treating fluid that comprises water, a hydrated gelling agent selected from the group consisting of galactomannan gums and derivatives thereof, and a base; wherein the viscous gelled treating fluid is substantially devoid of an insoluble gelling agent residue and remains substantially devoid of the ~~does not form an~~ insoluble gelling agent residue while in a subterranean zone; and

(b) introducing the viscous gelled treating fluid into the subterranean zone.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36 wherein ~~said~~ the water is selected from the group consisting of fresh water and salt water.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36 wherein the gelling agent is a galactomannan gum selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylhydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylguar, hydroxyethylguar and carboxymethylhydroxyethylguar.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the gelling agent is hydroxypropylguar.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the hydrated gelling agent is present in the water in an amount in the range of from about 10 to about 2000 pounds per 1000 gallons thereof.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide and calcium hydroxide.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the base is sodium hydroxide.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the base is present in the viscous gelled treating fluid in an amount sufficient to raise the pH of the treating fluid to in the range of from about 10 to 13.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the water is present in the viscous gelled treating fluid in an amount sufficient to lower the amount of the gelling agent therein to in the range of from about 10 to about 80 pounds per 1000 gallons of water and to lower the pH thereof to in the range of from about 2 to about 12.

45. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

(a) providing a viscous gelled treating fluid prepared by a process comprising the steps of:

(i) mixing a gelling agent selected from the group consisting of galactomannan gums and derivatives thereof with water to form a viscous gelled fluid comprising a hydrated gelling agent and a water insoluble residue;

(ii) mixing a base with the viscous gelled fluid; ~~so that the water insoluble residue is at least partially dissolved; and~~

(iii) allowing the base to dissolve substantially all of the water insoluble residue; and

(iv) adding additional water to the viscous gelled fluid to form a viscous gelled treating fluid; and

(b) introducing the viscous gelled treating fluid into the subterranean zone.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the gelling agent mixed with water in accordance with step (a) is dry particulate gelling agent.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the gelling agent mixed with the water is in the form of a liquid gel concentrate.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the water is selected from the group consisting of fresh water and salt water.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein the gelling agent is a galactomannan gum selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylhydroxypropylguar, carboxymethylguar, hydroxyethylguar and carboxymethylhydroxyethylguar.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the gelling agent is hydroxypropylguar.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide and calcium hydroxide.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the base is sodium hydroxide.